(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the reasons for the slow growth have been identified and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken in order to boost up the growth rate?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANDRAO VITHOBA ADSUL): (a) and (b) As per the Advance Estimates of National Income released by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) on February 7, 2003, the growth in real GDP in the current year is estimated at 4.4 per cent as compared with the growth rate of 5.6 per cent in 2001-02.

(c) The estimated decline in the growth of real GDP in the current year is mainly on account of negative growth of 3.1 per cent in the agriculture and allied sector because of drought in several parts of the country.

(d) Various economic reforms measures are being taken by the Government since 1991 aimed at accelerating economic growth, facilitating greater investment, enhancing the competitive spirit, reducing the level of poverty, allowing higher private initiative and achieving greater integration with the world economy.

Impact of increase in gas price

1313. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to increase gas tariff from Rs. 2850 to Rs. 5800 per mmscmd for consumers;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government propose a hike of Rs. 38 per thousand standard cubic metre on transportation tariff;

(c) if so, the factors necessitating increase in tariff;

(d) the impact of increase on the cost of production of fertilizers, power etc.; and

(e) the steps being taken to reduce the cost of production and transportation of gas in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The natural gas prices were last revised in September, 1997 and were effective upto March, 2000 and the same was to be reviewed to achieve 100% parity with fuel oil prices in the year 2000-01 and 2001-02. However, the natural gas prices could not be revised. There is a proposal to revise the gas prices and transportation charges. However, no decision has been taken.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Effect of Iraq-US War on consumption of petroleum products

†1314. DR. ABRAR AHMED: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the impending war between the USA and Iraq, the consumption, supply and prices of the petroleum products have been effected in any way in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The possibilities of a war between USA and Iraq have kept the international oil prices quite high in the recent times, thereby effecting the consumer prices of petroleum products in the country. The details of retail selling prices of petrol and diesel in Delhi since 1.3.2002 are enclosed as Statement.

Statement

Retail selling prices of Petrol and Diesel in Delhi since 1.3.2002

(*in Rs. Per litre*)

As on:	Petrol	Diesel
01.03.2002	26.54	16.59
04.06.2002	28.94	17.99
16.06.2002	29.18	18.23
16.08.2002	29.00	18.05
01.09.2002	29.20	18.34

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.